

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 3, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at 6:00 P. M. in the County Governmental Building, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

**Members present**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman  
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman  
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

**Others present**

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator  
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Rev. Charlie Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**Minutes**

The June 5, 2007 Minutes of the Edgefield County Council Meeting were approved as presented with a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

No comments concerning the May 2007 financial reports or the May 2007 Edgefield County Hospital Board minutes.

Mr. Ray Price, Edgefield County Hospital CEO, briefed council on status of the hospital. Mr. Price thanked the community for the support that is given to the hospital because without that support the hospital could not survive.

During 2006 the hospital had in terms of capital expenditures right at \$770,000 that were spent on the improvements to the hospital that were generally spent in the areas of radiology and finishing up the renovations in the new Emergency Room. From operations in 2006 the hospital losses were right at \$150,000 for the year but overall the operations for the hospital were positive.

For the year 2007, into the ninth month of the new fiscal year, one of the challenges the hospital faces is generating enough business to maintain its solvency. We have been

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able to increase our acute census population at the hospital by about 5%, year to date. That represents close to several hundred thousand dollars in reimbursements to the hospital.

They are in the process of acquiring several surgeons (different specialized areas) to do surgery at the hospital.

**No ordinances.**

**New Business**

**Walk-in Cooler (Coroner)**

The Edgefield County Coroner, during 2007-08 budget process, requested the purchase of a walk-in cooler to be housed in the hospital. The following bids were received for council's consideration:

(1)	<b>Best Food Equipment Co.</b>	<b>\$12,561.00</b>
(2)	<b>Meyers Refrigeration</b>	<b>\$14,306.00</b>
(3)	<b>C. D. White</b>	<b>\$15,950.00</b>

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the bid of \$12,561.00 submitted by Best Food Equipment Co. Motion carried unanimously.

Thurmond Burnett, Coroner, stated that Best Food Equipment has placed several coolers in Edgefield, one being at the local school. They are highly recommended.

The cooler comes in panels and a cement pad will have to be poured to place the panels on. The hospital has agreed to attach the cooler to the emergency room. They will furnish the wiring, cutting the hole in the hospital wall for entrance. The pad is not included the cooler price. The cost for the pad is \$1,700.00 – not in the bid.

**Road Maintenance Equipment**

Mr. Richard Wood with Wood Auction Company, auctions off heavy equipment in Birmingham, Ala. and Columbia, SC. He met with the administrator to discuss some potential prices the county could receive on some road maintenance equipment. Mr. Wood gave a price of what the auction would guarantee the county and also some estimates for buying new equipment. The guaranteed price now isn't as high as the county had hoped it would be two years ago when the equipment was purchased. The price for new models has increased, which the bottom line to replace two dump trucks and a CAT 12H motor grader would cost at least \$110,000.00. They are currently financed through a six-year lease – a payment is coming up in September which is in the budget. The Administrator stated that his recommendation, based on conversations with

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the road department, that we keep the equipment we have. The Mack trucks are 2006 and the motor graders are 2005. All are still under warranty. Chairman Kneece's recommendation also was to keep the equipment and reassess in another year.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to keep the said equipment one more year. Motion carried unanimously.

The road maintenance fee was discussed.

**Leases on 2004 Impala & 2005 Colorado 4x4**

The lease on the 2004 Impala that is currently assigned to County Administration ends on August 1, 2007. Instead of purchasing the vehicle (\$12,000) a motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to turn in the 2004 Impala and lease a new 2007 Impala for 36 months at \$254.00 per month. Motion carried unanimously.

The current lease on the 2005 Chevy Colorado assigned to the Building and Planning Department ends on August 26, 2007. Motion made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to purchase the 2005 Colorado 4x4 for \$13,682.10. Motion carried unanimously. The truck has low milage and should be good for another four to five years.

**Explosive testing/Force Protection**

Mrs. Jennifer Fleming addressed council concerning the explosive testing site of Force Protection located in the northern section of the county. Her concerns along with a petition are attached to the hard copy of these minutes. She thanked council for anything that could be done on the behalf of the citizens of that area concerning the noise and dangers of this testing site.

Chairman Kneece stated this is the first complaint on the testing site that has ever been brought before the council. It is not a zoned area so that is a minus to getting anything done. The county's Nuisance Ordinance is the only thing at this time we have to go by and it isn't very strong. A new Nuisance Ordinance is being considered by the Planning Commission to be brought before council. The council will look into this situation.

The Chairman asked the Attorney for a recommendation or something to go by. Mr. Byrd: "If the health, safety, etc. of a citizen is involved, the procedures of the nuisance ordinance the county has in force would be followed – if any of the provisions apply. If the testing range is hazardous as indicated by Mrs. Fleming, then there could be state laws and maybe something can be done. It requires being looked into.

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**No Old Business.**

**Administrator's Report**

Our new Building and Planning Director, Mr. Mike Reed, will begin work on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. He previously worked in Edgefield County as Tax Assessor for three years and most recently employed with Aiken County.

Mr. Price mentioned that the hospital's health insurance will go up 9.8%. We have received word that the county's insurance will go up 9.7% - through the State. We were told by the State earlier during the budget process they anticipated about a seven percent increase, but it came out to be higher. This increase will be effective January 1, 2008.

A funding summit will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Columbia if any of the council members would like to attend. Senator Lindsey Graham is sponsoring this and he is planning to be there. Several federal agencies will be represented to give information about obtaining funding/grants for Community Development Block Grants and Rural Development Grants. A number of opportunities may be available to local governments to obtain funding from the federal government.

We received word this week that the county has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$119,000 from the Department of Commerce to help with the construction of an access road to Trenton Plastics. Trenton Plastics is housed in the old Carlisle Plastics Plant in the Town of Trenton. The plans are for a 20,000 sq. ft. addition and to hire at least twenty (20) more people. The access road will be for trucks to come from the S. E. Diggs Road and not have to go through the town.

**Guests**

Mrs. Lisa Winn signed to speak concerning the Force Protection Testing site but declined stating she would wait until more information is gathered.

**No comments from the public.**

**Claims approved as follows:**

<b>PAYROLL:</b>	<b>6/4/07 thru 6/17/07</b>	
Regular.....		\$208,262.20
<b>PAYROLL:</b>	<b>6/18/07 thru 7/1/07</b>	
Regular.....		\$205,336.55
<b>General Operating.....</b>		<b>\$478,578.22</b>

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**No executive session.**

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting of council will be held at 6:00 Tuesday, August 7, 2007, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

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C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

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Norman Dorn, Councilman

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Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

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B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council